

VOTE  
NEXT  
TUESDAY

# Armour Tech News

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Vol. II. No. 7.

Armour Institute of Technology, Chicago, Illinois

November 1, 1928

## C. E. FREEMAN, '97 FORMER HEAD OF E. E. DEPT., DIES

Brother of Prof. E. H. Freeman Succumbs After Long Illness

WAS PROMINENT ENGINEER

Clarence E. Freeman, '97, B.S., M. S., E.E., former head of the Electrical Engineering Department, and older brother of the present head of that department, died last Saturday evening after a three year illness. Mr. C. E. Freeman enjoyed a wide and enviable reputation in the engineering world. His endeavors included not only electrical engineering, but also oil geology, irrigation projects, and transportation.

Came in 1895  
Mr. Freeman came to Armour in 1895, after receiving a bachelor's degree from Kansas State Normal College. He acted as instructor in electrical engineering, while at the same time completing his course here. In 1896 he had conferred upon him his Master's Degree from Kansas State Normal, and the following year he received his B. S. in Electrical Engineering from the Armour Institute.

Worked With De Forest  
Upon his graduation from Armour, he was made Associate Professor of Electrical Engineering, and remained in that capacity for six years, during which time he was intimately associated with Dr. Lee De Forest in the development of the radio tube, the research on this important invention being carried on by these two men entirely in the Armour Laboratories. In the meantime, he earned his E.E. degree in 1901.

Headed E. E. Department  
Upon the resignation of Professor I. J. Macomber in the spring of 1903, Professor C. E. Freeman was promoted to head the Department of Electrical Engineering. He remained in that capacity for nearly four years, but resigned in 1906 because of ill health, determining to engage in work which would keep him more out-of-doors.

Employed by B. J. Arnold  
He then went into the employ of Bion J. Arnold, consulting engineers, authorities on railroad and irrigation work. While with that firm he headed a commission sent to New York City to increase the passenger loading efficiency on the subway system. The plan which he offered as a solution to that problem is still being used by the subway companies.

Studied Oil Geology  
During the last ten years of his life, he made extensive studies in oil geology, and became very successful in locating the exact position of oil deposits. The detector which he used in this work is one of his own inventions.

About three years ago his health began to fail, and since that time he has been inactive in his profession. Mr. Freeman was 61 years old at the time of his death.

## Russian Professor Surveys Curriculum

Professor N. N. Raubtzoff of the Technical College of Moscow, Russia, is at present at Armour Institute making a comparative study of the curriculum, methods of instruction and shop and laboratory equipment. This study is a part of a nation-wide preliminary survey now being conducted in the interests of the Russian Government by Professor Raubtzoff and his associates. It is to be supplemented by another survey to be conducted next year by a larger committee making a more exhaustive investigation.

The fact that Professor Raubtzoff investigations include only the leading Technical Colleges of the country gives ample indication of how Armour's reputation has traveled to foreign lands.

## SCHOOL CALENDAR

Friday, Nov. 2, 1928:  
2:30 a. m., Opening of Pi Tau Sigma National Convention at Armour Tech.  
1:00 p. m., Honor "A" Society in Science Hall.  
Saturday, Nov. 3, 1928:  
8:30 a. m., Continuation of Pi Tau Sigma Convention.  
Tuesday, Nov. 6, 1928:  
Election Day. A Holiday for Day and Night Students.  
Wednesday, Nov. 7, 1928:  
5:00 p. m., Armour Tech News Staff Meeting in the News Office.  
Thursday, Nov. 8, 1928:  
8:00 a. m., Issue No. 8 of News distributed.  
Friday, Nov. 16, 1928:  
8:00 p. m., Senior Dance.

## NAT. CONVENTION OF PI TAU SIGMA BRINGS 24 HERE

On Friday and Saturday, November 2 and 3, twenty-four delegates of Pi Tau Sigma, national honorary mechanical engineering fraternity, representing nine other colleges and members of the national council, will hold their convention at Armour Tech.

Friday, between 8 and 9 a. m., the delegates will register, and from 9 to 12 noon will hold their first business session at the Phi Pi Phi house. In the afternoon, at 1:30, the formal initiation of six men will be held, after which a tour of the city and an inspection of the new sewage-disposal plant will be made.

The feature of the evening will be a banquet and card party at the I. W. A. G.

Saturday morning between 8:30 and 12 noon the second business session will be conducted. In the afternoon the delegates will see the Chicago-Penn State game, after which the convention will be officially closed.

G. H. Smith and F. C. Theede are the Armour chapter delegates.

## Four Honorary Frats Announce Pledge List

Several of the honorary fraternities have pledged during the past week. The pledges are chosen from the Junior and Senior classes on a basis of scholarship, school activities, personality, and character.

Tau Beta Pi, national honorary engineering fraternity: H. H. Dojois, N. S. Ewing, H. E. Goranson, M. J. Kittler, Harry Nissen, F. C. Ong, R. F. Stellar, Seniors, and E. R. Rowley, a Junior.

Eta Kappa Nu, honorary electrical engineering fraternity: Seniors, J. C. Hromada, F. W. McCloska, F. C. Ong; Juniors, F. H. Bigelow, M. A. Tennyson, and F. O. Zimmerman.

Phi Lambda Upsilon, honorary chemical engineering fraternity: Seymour Goodheart, a Senior; E. P. Boynton, Jack Goldman, A. T. Martin, J. E. Tarman, and W. R. Trognitz, all Juniors.

Salamander, honorary fire protection engineering fraternity: W. H. Berry, J. W. Gamble, R. E. Johnson, Seniors, and R. J. Gunther, a Junior.

Announcement of the pledges of Chi Epsilon, national honorary Civil, Scab, honorary Architecture, and Sphinx, honorary literary, will be made as soon as available.

## "Movies" To Feature Next A.S.M.E. Meeting

Next week there will be a meeting of the Armour Branch of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers at which motion pictures will be shown. The films will be one of several which the leading manufacturers have offered and will probably be that showing the manufacturing and testing of Studebaker cars.

The officers are at work trying to make up a schedule of first class speakers and films to be presented before the Society.

C. A. Blomquist is the chairman of the organization.

## Hoover Landslide of 4-1 Magnitude Predicted By Recent News Straw Vote

Herbert Hoover swept the ARMOUR TECH NEWS presidential straw vote last week with a landslide of nearly 4 to 1 magnitude. The total count showed 285 ballots for Hoover over against 74 tallies for Smith.

Faculty 100 Percent Hoover  
All faculty votes were for Herbert Hoover. About forty of the faculty cast ballots, which is over half their number, and enough to draw a representative curve!

The greatest odds against Smith were evidenced in the electrical engineering, where the count stood 6-1 for the engineer for president. In the fire protection engineering course the odds were only 2-1.

Bookstore Goes Democratic!  
One voter, taking a course in "Doughology" "every year," placed a neat cross on Al Smith's grave, or rather, his square. Stanley "Dough" Livingston's handwriting is unmistakable. Another ballot emphatically

marked for Smith was labeled, "Alumnus, 1922." It had all the earmarks of having been thrown in by J. Warren McAffrey.

In tabulating the ballots by classes figures revealed the Juniors with a 4 1-2 to 1 ratio for Hoover, Seniors, 4 to 1; Freshmen, 3 1-2 to 1, while the Sophomores were 3 to 1 for Hoover.

Wide Interest Manifest  
Ballots were given only to subscribers of the NEWS. Out of the approximately 630 who received ballots, 371 votes were cast, or about 60 percent, which indicates a wide interest in the experiment.

Varney, prohibitionist candidate, polled five votes, four of which were from Seniors. Thomas, the Socialist nominee, received four votes, three of which were from Fire Protects. Foster had three supporters.

Other prominent Americans who received votes were: Will Rogers, 2; Vernet V. Poupitch, 1.

## "Grand Old Man" of Football Gets Huge Ovation At Assembly

The first general assembly of the semester was held last Friday, October 26, in the Assembly Hall. The speaker of the day was Professor Amos Alonzo Stagg, football coach at the University of Chicago, and his subject was "Playing Square."

Associate Professor Schommer, one of Stagg's former stars, introduced him to the students as the "Grand Old Man" of football.

Advises Fair Play

Most of Coach Stagg's speech was in the way of advice to the students to "play the game square," no matter what kind of a game it is, whether in sport or in business. "No matter what the circumstances be, always play loyally and square, because above all that's what matters most. It's not the winning or the losing of a game, but it is a question of whether you've played it fair and square."

In another instance he said, "Boys, remember to keep fit and healthy at all times; be fair to yourselves and know yourselves at all times; have control of all your energies, and in that way you will always be able to play the game square. I can't impress on you strong enough of what importance this is in everybody's life and career."

Coach Stagg illustrated his talk with several personal experiences, stressing the necessity of honesty and fair play. After the speech, Prof. Schommer thanked Coach Stagg on behalf of the faculty and student body, and very appropriately remarked, "This just goes to show you, boys, that after all, a pile of bricks doesn't make a university; it takes men." The assembly ended up with the singing of the "Armour Fight Song," after which the 11:30 classes were resumed.

## Red Cross Membership Drive Starts Nov. 11

The Twelfth Annual Membership Roll Call of the American National Red Cross to enroll members for 1929 begins Nov. 11, Armistice Day, and ends on Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 29.

Money received at the Roll Call is the only source of income enjoyed by the Red Cross, except that occasionally in times of great disaster, such as the recent hurricane which swept Porto Rico and Florida, or the Mississippi Valley Flood of a few seasons back, when special relief fund drives are carried on.

## HONOR "A" MEETING

The Honor "A" Society will meet Friday, November 1, in Science Hall at 1:00 p. m. This meeting will be held for the purpose of taking in new members. All men who have won a major or a minor "A" are eligible for membership.

## Information On Pro- bation System Given Out By Deans' Office

Owing to the fact that at the present time there is but little information in the School Bulletin regarding the methods of handling the cases of students on probation the following article has been written to better acquaint the student body with these details.

Conditions for Probation

Any student who fails in a majority of his subjects or in the principal subjects of his course is placed on probation by the Office of the Deans for a period of one semester. During this time the delinquent student must improve his scholastic standing or he is dropped from the Institute. The Office of the Deans makes every effort to aid students in this position and has adopted a system in this regard which has proved very successful.

A questionnaire is sent at regular intervals to the instructors of each student on probation in regard to the scholastic standing of the student in question. These reports are filed out and returned to the Office of the Deans where they are studied carefully. If it becomes evident that a student will fail in one or more subjects he is permitted to drop as many as is compatible with the continuation of his course. By dropping a subject in this way the student is enabled to concentrate on those remaining and frequently passes several which he might otherwise have failed. If all of these methods fail the student severs his connection with the Institute.

Cases Treated Individually

The comparatively small student body has made it unnecessary for the Deans to adopt any set rule of procedure in this regard and each individual case is reviewed carefully before action is taken. At the present time there are 31 students on probation, most of whom, according to Dean Palmer, give indications of regaining their scholastic standing by the end of the semester.

## Junior Chemicals Visit So. Side Pumping Station

Last Friday, Oct. 26, the Junior Chemical Engineering class visited the 68th St. pumping station and experimental filtration plant. The 68th St. plant is one of the largest in the city, delivering 130,000,000 gallons daily at the present time with an ultimate capacity of 200,000,000 gallons daily.

The filtration plant was of especial interest. Here large scale methods of filtering water are being conducted on a laboratory scale for the purpose of ascertaining the methods most applicable to Chicago's water supply. The students were conducted through the plant by Mr. J. R. Baylis, Chief Filtration Chemist of the City of Chicago.

## ANNOUNCEMENT

Owing to the fact that there seems to be some misunderstanding, especially on the part of the new students, Dean Penn wishes to have it made clear that the official Lost and Found Bureau is located in the Deans' Office. Articles which are found should be turned in there. Students who lose anything are to inquire there for it.

## FIFTY STUDENTS WANTED TO SUPER IN OPERA "AIDA"

Through the courtesy of the University of Chicago, it is again possible for Armour students to "super" in the opera and in that way obtain passes for the remaining presentations at the Auditorium. For the first performance, Aida, fifty men are wanted. This will be held Saturday, November 3, and all men signing up for "super" duty are requested to be at the stage entrance of the Auditorium not later than 1:00 p. m. It is very important that all men be on time, as instructions will be given out at that time.

Those who make good will be asked to continue in that line of duty for the rest of the Opera season. This enables you to obtain a pass for the opera after having "supered" in three performances. Positions are especially open to men with experience "in supering" but there are several vacancies to be filled by new men.

The performance Saturday afternoon, Nov. 3, will be the opera Aida. All will agree that Aida is one of the finest operas of the Chicago season. It is well worth seeing, and should be an inducement for all opera lovers at Armour to get signed up early on the "super" roll.

The stage entrance of the Auditorium is located one-half block south of Van Buren St. on Michigan Ave. And again, BE ON TIME! 1:00 p. m. Saturday, Nov. 3.

## New Device Defies Gravity; We Wonder!

Professor Wilcox, head of the Physics department recently was interviewed by Chicago Daily News and Tribune representative. His opinion was asked on the recent invention of Mr. Tate, an English inventor, of a method of overcoming the force of gravitation.

Mr. Tate states his new force will eliminate and not insulate gravity. He does not patent his method as he believes the secret is so simple and so easily explained, with such great possibilities that he desires to keep the secret for his own use.

Both Dr. Grace, vice president of the Bell Telephone Laboratories of New York, and Professor Wilcox believe that the force is explained by super-magnetism. The Bell Telephone Co. have an apparatus of this sort, consisting of a cobalt steel piece about four inches long and one-quarter inch square held in mid-air in guides by a similar piece of metal placed in a wooden block.

Prof. Wilcox has a duplicate of this apparatus in his office, also coming from the Bell Telephone Co. The principle of operation follows the very fundamental law of magnetism, that like poles of a magnet repel each other.

The possibilities according to Mr. Tate are staggering, as houses could be built in the air, air traffic could be controlled and airplanes would not be required to oppose the law of gravitation. With these possibilities, —oh well, what is this world coming to?

R. J. Guenther and V. A. Peterson are to be the delegates of the Armour chapter of Eta Kappa Nu, national honorary electrical engineering fraternity, to the annual convention at the University of Minnesota at Minneapolis. At this convention, twenty-three active chapters and twelve alumni chapters will be represented. Guenther and Peterson are leaving at 6:30 tonight over the C. and N.W.

## 56 FLOCK TO GYM AT SOUNDING OF BASKET CLARION

Krafft Puts Men Through Traces; New and Old Vie For Berths

JOHNNIE MANZ IS CAPTAIN

Fifty-six men, the largest initial turnout in the history of Armour, responded to Coach Krafft's call for basketball candidates, Thursday, October 25. The home gym literally buzzed with activity, and it is said that with the exception of a few social functions and gym classes held up there, the place has never been so crowded. Bill Krafft was all smiles at the initial reception given him as new basketball coach. He attributed the overwhelming turn-out largely to the advertising given the team by the NEWS.

Heavy Freshman Turnout  
There was a good sprinkling of freshman talent together with a good sized bunch of upper classmen. Capt. Johnny Manz was there with all his old time "zip," and if early indications mean anything, he should be this year's star. King Simpson, Jimmy Fee, and Stan Ott share honors with Johnny by the way they handled themselves and should be important cogs in this season's machine. Goodheart, Ewing and Rowley are also back and appear to be in good condition.

Of the new material, Leyden looks a sure bet with a lot of practice. Erland, all-county choice from his particular locality in Indiana, handles himself with all the grace of a veteran, and no doubt will be given due consideration.

Big Men Needed  
Bill Krafft, although delighted with the large turnout, is somewhat gloomy about the size of the men. It takes a good heavy man to meet with a heavy man on the floor; so without the necessary weight, Armour will be handicapped. However, prospects are bright of developing a real fast outfit with this year's material, and if the old saying, "what is lost in power, is gained in speed," means anything, the loss of weight should be more than compensated.

Bill Keeps 'Em Busy  
Practice at first was merely a matter of getting acquainted with new surroundings and tossing baskets. After a few minutes of this, Krafft ordered his men about, dividing them into groups shooting at separate baskets. By the way many of the boys were attempting to sink the ball (Continued on page 4, column 3)

## Tau Beta Pi President At St. Louis Conclave

John W. Manz, '29, senior mechanical, left last night as a delegate of Illinois Beta Chapter of Tau Beta Pi, national honorary engineering fraternity, to the twenty-seventh annual convention of the society being held in St. Louis. Missouri Gamma chapter, located at Washington University, is acting as host to the delegates. The convention is a three day affair, continuing today, tomorrow and Saturday.

Manz is president of the Armour chapter of Tau Beta Pi, and is also president of the honorary fraternity council.

## Two Juniors Pledged By "Flask and Beaker"

Flask and Beaker, a professional club whose members are from the chemical department, pledged P. M. Rusevich and V. A. Sturm last Tuesday evening. These men are both from the Junior class. According to the rules of the club, no one can be pledged before he is in the second semester of his sophomore year. The accounts for the fact that there are so few pledges at this season.



## ARMOUR TECH NEWS

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Vol. II. NOVEMBER 1, 1928 No. 7

HE JESTS AT SCARS THAT  
NEVER FELT A WOUND

—Shakespeare.

## Our Little Surprise

Today we present to our subscribers a six-column sheet instead of a five. We take pride in this achievement. We will endeavor to continue the publication of the NEWS in six-column form for the rest of the year.

This issue is but the twelfth to appear on the Campus. When it was founded in the middle of last semester, it was skeptically looked upon as an experiment which would prove impractical. The opposite has proven to be the truth. It has found its place in student life, fulfilling a long-felt need.

Its success has been due mainly to the whole-hearted support it has received from the students and the faculty. This support from the students has not only been in a financial way, by subscription, but also in the form of service on the staff.

In response to this approbation on the part of the students, we offer this expanded size. We believe a school the size of Armour deserves something better than a five-column sheet. We regret that as yet we cannot give it an eight-column eight-page newspaper.

The staff feels assured that whole-hearted backing of the student body, which to date has been such a vital factor in the success of the NEWS, will continue unabated.

## Vote!

Tuesday the nation will choose a new president. This is one of the most important events in our national life. On our decision as citizens Tuesday will depend the destiny of our country's history for the next four years. Closely linked with the future of our nation is the future of ourselves as professional men. Surely this is no small matter.

Whatever else you do, vote next Tuesday. You'll have plenty of time. Remind others to vote. As long as the citizens of this great nation continue to use to advantage their inalienable right to vote, there is no danger that this great democracy of ours will degenerate into an oppressive rule of the minority.

Vote Tuesday!

## Savoring Tea With Vinegar

Ever been to a movie? Ever see a really great movie, one intended to impress you deeply, and which did; one of the kind such as "Ten Commandments," "Ben Hur," "Birth of a Nation," which are masterpieces of screen drama? Ever had this experience, that, just as the picture ended, and you put your head down for a moment to let the true import of the production make a more lasting impression, the orchestra sailed shriekingly into the very vilest of jazz creations, jarring all meditation out of your mind, so that you felt like fighting the whole management?

We feel sure that you've had that experience.

Ever go to the student assemblies? Ever listen with rapt attention to some of the notables who have spoken from the platform in Armour Mission, so that you have really become absorbed in their message, fascinated by their eulogy on Lincoln, thrilled by their account of the magnitude of the war, awed by their stories of great men? Ever feel, just as the speaker finishes, that you've listened to a truly great man, and are better off for the words he said, when, when all of a sudden the cheer leader jumps to his feet, and at the top of his voice, utters a harsh command, "Come on, now fellows, let's give a YEAH RATHBONE, YEAH STAGG, all together, one, two, three—," so that you felt like chucking him out of the window?

We're certain you've also had that experience.

A politician thinks of the next election; a statesman, of the next generation. —James Freeman Clarke.

You have achieved the crown of all honors, a triumph the greatest generals may envy; for it is a nobler thing to remove the barriers of intellectual life than to extend the boundaries of the empire. —Caesar's tribute to Cicero.

## "THE SLIPSTICK"

Cleave to "The Slipstick"; let  
the Slipstick fly where it may.

## Famous Fears No. 2

(A private interview with Vernet Poupitch by the I. R. Inquiring Reporter.)

It was two years ago  
That Poupitch met his woe,  
He took up Physics I  
And then Poupitch was done.

We say with sad remorse  
That Poupitch flunked the course  
And this became the source  
Of Poupitch's use of force.

A boxer he became,  
And one of noted fame;  
Trembling at his own name.  
But he was ne'er the same  
Since he took the noted bane  
Of Physics. What a shame!

All challengers he did defeat,  
But there was one he feared to meet,  
The one on whom revenge was sweet,  
The one for whom he trained to beat;  
The one with whom his mind was fraught,  
The one who held his every thought,  
This is what the I. R. sought—

POUPITCH FEARS WILCOX!

The only thing that can make a freshman think fast on his feet is a cafeteria.

Scene: Man speeding to beat train at grade crossing.  
Voice I: Didja get across?  
Voice II: No, but I will as soon as the stonecutter gets through.

Physics Bore: Say, look here, it says that liquid hydrogen is 253 degrees below zero.

Stude: That's nothing; you should have been in my room when I told the landlady I couldn't pay the rent.

She was good looking and had a fine shape. They told me she was fast, and she was. But just the same, I liked her. She never smoked and in times of need she was a good pal. She was never painted in a vulgar way, just a bit of color here and there to give her a sparkling appearance. She was easy on your pocketbook and when you took her out you were sure of a good time.  
But I traded her in and bought a new LaSalle.

There was a young freshman named Blaine  
Whose ego was certainly plain,  
He jostled his way  
Thru some sophs one day—  
There WAS a young freshman named Blaine.

## SO DOES HE

After looking over the last exam, Prof. Spencer announced that we were lacking sufficient knowledge in review algebra, college algebra, elementary geometry, analytical geometry, physics, and mechanics. Wonder what we do know? —J. E. A.

"Did you hear the latest Scotch joke? It seems that Mac—"  
"Stop! I won't listen. Some of my very closest friends are Scotch."

Prof. Leigh: "I hear you're taking up golf."  
Stude: "Yes, I made an 81 yesterday."  
"That's fine. It takes a fairly good player to make an 81."

"You know, I even think I can do better. I'm going out tomorrow and try the second hole."

That reminds us of the fellow who, when we asked him if he played golf said that he didn't, but he was never going to give up trying.

## CHICAGO

"Wasn't Dago Mike elected?"

"Naw, both of our machine guns jammed."

—Freddie.

A fellow in our neighborhood dreamt he was eating Shredded Wheat, and, would you believe it, when he woke up half the mattress was gone. —Freddie.

It seems that Al Smith had gotten far up in the north woods before he discovered that he had forgotten his gun. Telephoning back from a nearby ranger's cabin the following monologue ensued:

"Say, send a fellow right up here with my gun! not gum, GUN. "G" for January, "U" for euphony, and "N" for pneumonia."

—F.B.A.

Pledge, to haughty Senior: "Please, sir, do you drink coffee?"  
Same Senior: "Certainly, you don't think I chew it, do you?"

Dear Mr. Editor,

I cum frum out wEst wear the cowboys R and I wanna say that i think that you did me rong in yer straw VoTE. i couldnt find my candidates name on yer ballOt and i wanta protest. Whyinell want will rOgers name on the ballOt. Dontya no he is the great anti-bunk candidate? I heard the campign sPeechs on my raydio and he never had a chance in yer voting. Think of his sLogAn and realize what a swell man he is: We want a president, he sez, that can be intentionally funny. HoPping to see you rite this error. I is, —WestErner.

A criminal and his money are soon pardoned.  
Five more days and then, hallelujah, the radio can be turned on with perfect assurance that no political speeches are en oute. Whoopoe. —Al.

## The Inquiring Reporter

Question: What do you think of Dean Penn's explanation of the credit system as applied to Physics?

A. R. Wojciechzek, '31: I agree with his idea that the time given to do an experiment is enough, but I don't think that there is sufficient time for the organization of the work to be done before going to the laboratory.

I. Berger, '31: It sounds logical and I think you have enough time for outside written reports.

James Filmer, '31: Some of the Juniors and Seniors are still doing their Sophomore laboratory work. It's a very depressing outlook for a Sophomore. A discouraged man does poor work.

W. Penfold, '31: I think that the average student is not able to do the work in the required time. I think that less work or more credit would make it satisfactory.

E. S. Warner, '31: The average student is taken to be of a type that is really above the average. If a true average was taken, it would be found that the work is too difficult.

P. Jordan, '31: I am fully satisfied. The extra laboratory periods at the end will make up for time lost earlier.

William Drigot, '31: I must be dumb, because I can't do it in the maximum of time. I must be way below the average student.

J. Bowman, Jr., '31: As far as the amount of credit you get for the work you do, it's all right, but doing the work in the required amount of time is another matter.

J. H. Stranberg, '31: In order to write up an experiment, I have to spend at least three hours. A preliminary takes one hour or more to do thoroughly in order to understand the experiment. I've already encountered several experiments that took more than three hours in the laboratory. I think that the average experiment takes one and a half periods.

A. Winkler, '31: It's all right if your laboratory doesn't come on a holiday. Otherwise, you will not get the full sixteen periods.

R. Burns, '24, Tells E.E.'s  
of Vitaphone Development

With one hundred and ten present, including all of the professors of the Electrical Engineering Department, the A. I. E. E. kept up its good attendance record at a meeting held last Monday, October 29, in Science Hall.

Mr. Robert Burns, the speaker of the day, was introduced by R. J. Guenther, chairman of the Program Committee. Mr. Burns is a graduate of the class of 1924 in the Electrical Engineering course. After leaving Armour he entered the employ of Warner Bros., putting in Vitaphone and Movietone sets throughout the country. At present he is working at Marks Bros. Granada Theatre which is located on the north side.

Mr. Burns' topic, "Movietone," was illustrated with slides. The accompanying of sound with movies has been a fact since the beginning of the motion picture industry, but was not made a success until lately. Mr. Burns attributed the old phonograph and the inefficient amplifiers for the early "squawkie" failures.

In the first attempts it was entirely up to the operator to keep film and sound together. If the film got ahead of the sound or visa versa it was his duty to advance or retard the film or sound speed until the two were working right. Some theatres developed an elaborate system of lights to give the operator the necessary information regarding the speed of the talking outfit. Today the rate of projection and the rate of reproduction are directly connected with each other eliminating the human agency.

The slides showed hook-ups of various movietone sets which he explained very thoroughly. One picture showed that the needle on the movietone record moved from the inside out toward the edge instead of out from the outside in as on the home phonograph.

Every state has from one to three complete movietone systems mounted on trucks for the purpose of gathering all important current events.

In closing, Mr. Burns invited the Senior Electricals to visit the Granada Theatre for an inspection of the movietone set there.

## More Senior Dance Chat

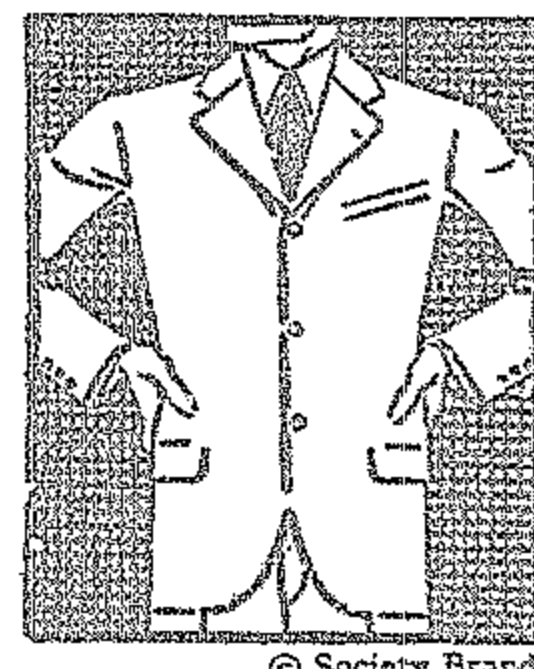
Has anyone noticed any change in the weather? Huh? It looks like old man Jack Frost is back on the job once more, doesn't it? Soon it will be the season for red ears, frozen noses, and numb-skulls, for days and nights are growing colder, but don't forget that one night amongst the coming ones will be red hot. That is the night of Nov. 16 when the Senior Class of '29 presents to you Zec Confrey and his very heated band to supply the warmth for the evening. The song says "Just a night for Meditation," but we know it will be "Just a night for Rejuvenation." Tired students are bound to lose that tired feeling when Zec starts making those ivories do calisthenics, and wrinkles, due to "Calc" and "Chem" ought to pass completely out of the picture. There will be the "Armour Fight Song" and other college songs. Also, for your entertainment, there will be special exhibition dancing by a

young lady who knows how (and how!). Chaperones for the evening will be Dean and Mrs. Palmer, Dean and Mrs. Penn, Prof. and Mrs. Heald, and Mr. and Mrs. Holmes.

This informal dance will be the opening of the Armour social calendar and will also be the last dance to be given by the class of '29 to the Institute. Throughout the past three years, '29 has given very successful dances, and this year hopes to climax its achievements by giving a dance just a bit better than the others—one to be long remembered by all who attend. This can only be accomplished through the hearty co-operation of all Armour students. Don't forget that the Illinois-Chicago game will be played Nov. 17, the day after the dance; invite your friends coming up to Chicago for the game also to take in our dance. Our friends up at Northwestern are especially invited.

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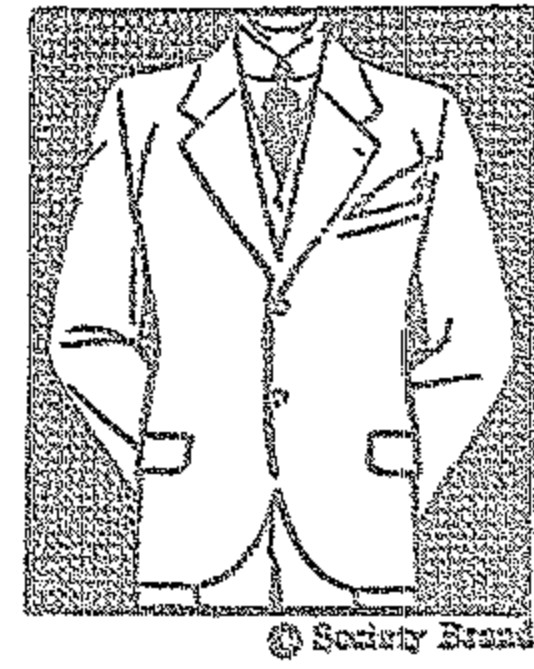
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## J. G. Shedd Aquarium Inspected On Trip By Civil Upperclassmen

Last Friday, October 26, the junior and senior Civils were excused from their afternoon classes to attend an inspection trip. This trip was under the auspices of the Chicago Branch of the Western Society of Engineers, and included an inspection of the John G. Shedd Aquarium that is being built at Roosevelt Road and the lake, and also an examination of the huge dredges near Roosevelt Road that are the property of the Great Lakes Dredge and Dock Co.

The construction work at the Aquarium was exceptionally interesting as it involved reinforced concrete, stone masonry, terra cotta, and steel. The floor system and the fresh and salt water reservoirs are all of concrete construction, in which pumice was used in the aggregate to secure a very dense and hard concrete. Tests made by different companies as to the quality of the concrete used on the job have given results of the highest order.

All Columns Concreted  
The basement columns are of concrete or concrete encased steel which rest on concrete piers sunk in the ground, which in turn are supported on a cluster of wooden piles that have direct bearing on bed rock. All of the columns on the mezzanine and the first floor are of steel encased in concrete. On the first floor there is the Octagon Hall from which branches eight corridors that will be filled with exhibits. The roofs of these halls are of steel arch construction and the structural details encountered are very complex and were a source of surprise to all who witnessed the complicated connections. The upper columns that support the arches are encased in concrete, but the arch itself is coated with a special preservative preparation.

Vehicular Driveway  
In the basement of the Aquarium there is a vehicular driveway for the convenience of automobile traffic. The building is heated from the plant of the Field Museum, the heating pipes coming through a concrete tunnel to the southwest end of the Aquarium. This method of heating is more economical than by providing a separate heating plant. The tunnel will be used for pipes only.

Largest in the World  
When completed, this aquarium will be the largest in the world. Admission charges will be required for the financial support of the building, since the original amount donated for its construction does not include maintenance.

Large Dredges Inspected  
Another surprise was in store for the group when they proceeded to inspect the Great Lakes' dredges which were anchored about a quarter of a mile away. These dredges contained not the one big greasy boiler, as many had expected to see, but machinery of the latest type in spic-and-span condition, — everything clean and well polished.

After wandering past rows of gigantic Diesel engines, whirling generators, paneled staterooms, the C. E.'s landed in the pilot house, looked at the Sperry gyroscopic compass, signed their names, smoked the free cigars, and listened to an explanation of the dredge's operation.

The Diesel engines are used to generate current for the operation of the 700 H. P. motor that is shaft connected to the clam-shell shaped wheel which digs out the material. This wheel is placed at the end of a long boom which can be raised and lowered by means of cables. Directly beneath and behind the vane digger is the opening of the suction pipe through which the loosened material is drawn by means of large centrifugal pumps. All controls are conveniently arranged in the pilot house, the captain directing operations from a comfortable chair.

Older Dredge: Steam Operated  
The older boats were steam operated and were noticeably dirtier. Their method of operation was similar to the newer one except that it was necessary to have a complicated gear train to permit tilting the boom.

After the Civils had climbed the steep stairs, crossed the gangplanks, and peered through innumerable port holes, they began to feel very nautical. A good time was had while assimilating much valuable information.

## Mystery Writer



HARRY STEPHEN KEELER

## ALUMNUS WINS WIDE FAME AS PLOT WIZARD

When we find old grads of Armour Tech holding down positions as heads of huge manufacturing concerns, or as world-famous engineers, we are not at all surprised, for that is where we expect them to end up at. But when we find an alumnus holding the distinction of being one of the leading writers of mystery stories in the country, having to his credit a mathematically expressed and much discussed law propounding the mental moves necessary toward intricate plot construction our attention is aroused.

Such a personage is Harry Stephen Keeler, author of "The Voice of the Seven Sparrows," "Find the Clock," "Sing Sing Nights," "The Amazing Web," "The Clash of Identities," and dozens of others.

He spent five years at Armour Tech, from 1907 to 1912, and took a little of everything, studying in the departments of E. E., M. E., and C. E. Already in his student days at Armour he was busy at his, at that time, hobby, for he wrote regularly for mystery story magazines and earned a neat bit of expense money for himself.

Finally one day in 1912, in typical Keeler fashion, he announced that he was going to quit. He was in Professor Paul's class in Hydraulics at the time. "At the end of the hour," says Professor Paul, "he came up to me and said without any hesitation, 'I'll never make an engineer. I'm going to quit and devote my time to writing.' He never came to class again."

Perhaps we can find adequate explanation of Mr. Keeler's peculiar talent for writing stories in which murders and mysteries run rampant in the fact that he was born in the same room in which machine guns were stationed to kill Hymie Weiss years later.

In any event we don't wonder a bit at his widespread fame, after reading one or two of his thrilling productions, for his gripping tales of underworld drama in the big cities, woven into the most involved and intricate plots which enmesh the reader in their very intrigues, the only method of untangling being to finish the book at a sitting, are of such merit as to make many an erstwhile writer of mystery tales crawl back into his hole.

There's nothing secret about Mr. Keeler's method of constructing a plot. To the contrary, he has published his methods in the form of a sort of text-book on plot construction, and has named it "The Mechanics (and Kinematics) of Web-Work Plot Construction." He has applied his engineering training, received at Armour Tech, to weaving plots and constructing drama, and has made a phenomenal success of it. He calls Armour the "school where, strange to say, I learned all I know about plot construction."

In a statement concerning this book on plot construction, Mr. Keeler said, "Starting with elementals, I have endeavored to treat 'plot' as something analyzable into two components,—force and direction, i. e., its mechanics and its kinematics.

"In dealing with the force aspect of the plot, I have dealt with motivating and motivating, false and correct, with examples: the passive plot

thread and the active plot thread. I have shown the mental processes involved in every bit of plotting, and the number of combinations of these processes; also I have analyzed the 'blocking' or 'going up a blind alley' phase of plotting into three components, proving that all 'blind alleys' is due to a combination of three elements that are 'against the plotter'. I have also dealt with some peculiar phenomena, such as how motivating an incident can destroy the motivation, and the converse of this proposition."

This should give engineering students, who are inclined to visualize all their mathematics and mechanics as applied to cold steel, something to think about. Does the experience of this engineer, for that he certainly is, open up a new field of endeavor for the engineering graduates of the future?

Mr. Keeler has remained a Chicagoan, his work-shop being at 1321 Addison Boulevard. This work-shop in itself is especially interesting. One wall is completely taken up with three gigantic maps of the "three mystery cities of the world"—Chicago, Paris, and London, each fitted with a huge battery of pins with brilliantly colored disks as heads, and capable of being inserted at any point on the map to mark the progress of the story.

An immense blackboard covers the adjoining wall, which with colored chalks and vertically and horizontally ruled lines shows the chronological position of every character at any moment in a mystery novel he would be writing. A third wall has every inch of its area covered with a huge filing cabinet, containing several hundreds of drawers, in which is tabulated, in very neat and concise form, material and information pertaining to almost every conceivable subject from Chinese curios to such branches of science as sociology and psychiatry.

A description of his workshop would by no means be complete without including one of his most prized possessions, a pet rabbit which makes

## Corn Stalks Adorn T. X. House at Dance

The annual Halloween Dance of the Armour Chapter of Theta Xi was held at the Chapter House last Saturday evening. The House began taking on an atmosphere of Halloween Wednesday, and by Saturday it was gorgeously decorated with corn stalks, pumpkins, paper streamers, and drawings made by the architects, which were used to decorate the large mirrors on the first floor.

About seventy couples attended, quite a few of which were guests. There were brothers from Illinois, Purdue, and our own alumni. Several men from the other fraternities at Armour were also present.

The music was furnished by the "White Friars." Chaperones were: Mr. and Mrs. L. Dean Alber and Mr. and Mrs. Martin Hussander.

its home in his waste-basket.

"I know you'll be terribly disappointed," said Harry Stephen Keeler, "for you hoped to find literary atmosphere here. But there it—or he—is." Pointing to the rabbit, "That's H. L. Mencken. That's the atmosphere."

Ed. Note: A review of two of Harry Stephen Keeler's best known books, "The Voice of the Seven Sparrows," and "Sing Sing Nights," will appear in the Book Review column next week.)

The bi-yearly convention of Chi Epsilon, national honorary Civil Engineering Fraternity, will be held on Nov. 3 and 4 at Madison, Wis. The Armour Chapter will be represented by R. F. Stellar.

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## Frosh Dance Plans Being Formulated

Donald Chapman, the newly elected social chairman of the freshman class, will appoint a social committee of five at the next meeting of the class, the date of which has not yet been announced.

This committee will make plans for the freshman social functions of the coming year. The freshman dance will be held some time after Christmas, and if successful, the surplus money will be used for some other function, such as a summer social.

## FRATERNITY NOTES

### DELTA TAU DELTA

The Deltas acted as host to a number of their members from Purdue University who visited the Armour Chapter before and after the Purdue-Chicago football game last Saturday. The members of the Armour chapter were guests at a house dance of the U. of C. chapter held that evening.

J. M. Jacobson, '29, vice president of Kappa Delta Tau fraternity, has been serving in the capacity of president while W. N. Olefsky, '30, is out on a leave of absence. Olefsky was

## LETTER-BOX

A.I.T., Oct. 29, 1928.

Letter-Box:

I overheard two of our prominent chemistry professors swapping definitions of what education is. They struck me rather forcibly. Here they are:

1. Education is that which is taught in normal colleges by abnormal professors to subnormal students.

2. Education is that which is left when you've forgotten all the facts that have been crammed into your head in college.

I wonder what others think of them. Have any of them any better ones?  
—Eave-dropper.

forced to remain out of school for a while because of financial reasons, and is at present employed as an architect for the Board of Education.

Rho Delta Rho is planning a house dance for Saturday, November 3.

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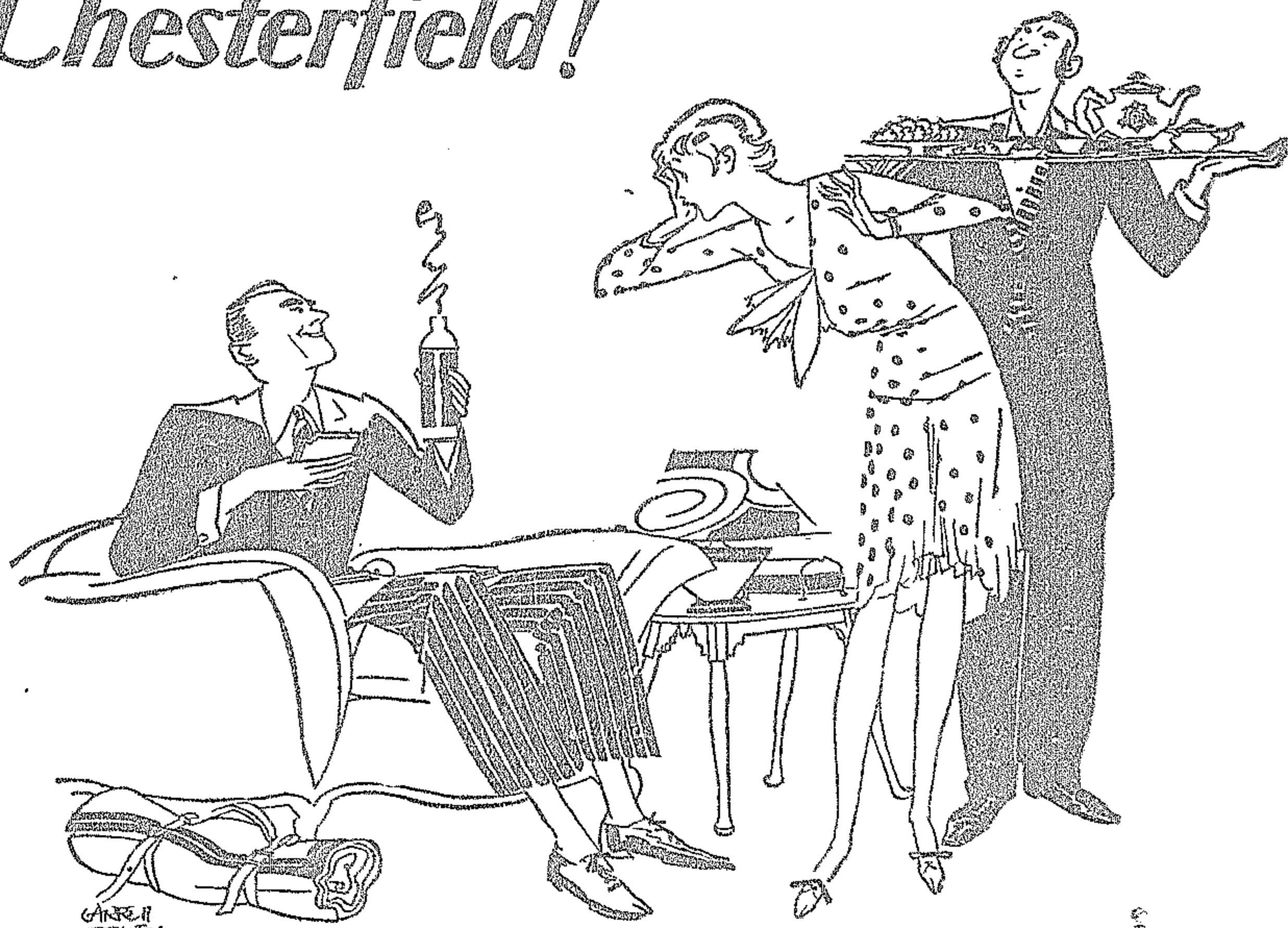
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And small wonder, considering all the remark implies. Good taste, top quality, the rare sparkle of tobacco goodness—all these combine to justify the choice of that man who thus shows his keen judgment.

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## FLOYD ONG COPS MEDAL IN SCHOOL GOLF TOURNAMENT

### Semi-Finals Picks Champ As Larkin's Illness Caused Default

Floyd C. Ong, a Senior Electrical, won the annual student golf tournament by defeating D. C. Baldwin 8 up and 6 to play in a semi-final match. D. C. Larkin, '31, captain of the Boxing Team, was to have been Ong's opponent in the finals but due to a sudden attack of appendicitis suffered last Monday was forced to default.

Ong has been the outstanding figure throughout the entire tournament, winning all of his matches by large scores. In his match with Baldwin he made most of his holes in par although it was much too cold for good golf. In recognition of his victory he was presented with a gold medal symbolic of the school championship. R. L. Quinby, '29, was the winner of last year's tourney.

This tournament is played every fall for the purpose of uncovering new material for the golf team. Coach Leigh announces that he is well pleased with the showing of both the finalists and semifinalists and holds high hopes for next year's team with this talent available.

## Schommer Answers Football Queries

By Prof. John J. Schommer

Question: "A" punts to "B" other than from "free kick formation." Can a player on "A's" side recover and run for a touchdown?

Answer: "A" can only recover the ball and the ball is dead at the point of recovery by "A." "B" may recover on a fumble or muff and run for a touchdown.

Question: When has a player who receives a forward pass, possession and control of the ball?

Answer: When he has caught the ball, tucked it away, and has taken a step or two. That rule applies when he catches the ball while in motion. A player may catch the ball and never take a step and still be in possession and control. That applies when he is standing still. Judgment of experienced men can only tell. A slipping or juggled ball may be carried from goal line to goal line, with the player never having possession and control.

Question: "A" kicks to "B" and "B" is fouled as he runs the ball back, by a man on "A's" side. A penalty is inflicted. Where is the penalty measured from?

Answer: All penalties are measured from the spot of foul unless otherwise decreed.

## Insulation Tests Are Run in Mechanical Lab.

An exhaustive test to determine whether the use of a different kind of paint on railroad refrigerator cars would increase the efficiency of the cooling system, is to be conducted by Associate Professor J. C. Peebles, in the Armour Experimental Engineering Laboratory.

It has been found that the efficiency of radiators in steam and hot-water heating systems is higher when they are covered with an oil paint than when aluminum paint is employed.

Since the aluminum paint seems to offer greater resistance to the transmission of heat than the oil paint, it is thought that refrigerator cars, if painted with it, would require less ice to maintain the proper temperature.

The heat flow through sections of the car walls will be measured when they are painted with the customary yellow color. This paint will then be removed, the aluminum paint applied, and the heat flow again tested.

The walls of the cars are about six inches thick insulated by two inches of hair felt, one-half inch of Celotex and a two-inch air space.

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## Wheaton Takes Cross-Country Bacon, 17-38

Last Saturday afternoon, the Armour cross country team journeyed to Wheaton, Illinois, with high hopes of repeating the performance at Loyola on October 12. But it was doomed to disappointment, for it met a team that was by far its superior. Armour's team was not in condition to run such a distance as three and one-half miles, and do so in very fast time.

The Wheaton team, led by captain Hess, won by a score of 17 to 38, low score winning. Hess, one of the two men who beat Phil Deiwert last year, set the pace, running the first mile in 5:05. He ran the three and one-quarter mile course in 17:58, finishing more than a hundred yards ahead of all the others. Wheaton copped the first four places, as well as the seventh. The results of the race were as follows:

First—Hess, Capt., Wheaton.  
Second—Nute, Wheaton.  
Third—Crawford, Wheaton.  
Fourth—Paine, Wheaton.  
Fifth—Hodgson, Armour.  
Sixth—Smith, Capt., Armour.  
Seventh—Ferris, Wheaton.  
Eighth—James, Armour.  
Ninth—Montesano, Armour.  
Tenth—Taylor, Armour.

This was Hodgson's first meet, and from the showing made Saturday, he promises to make a good runner before the end of the season. Fifteen men, seven from Wheaton and eight from Armour, competed in the meet, everyone of which finished the race. Others who ran for Armour were: Iverson, Bogot, and Eckleman.

## J. of C. Lockers Given Out to Tech Swimmers

W. R. Trognitz, captain of the swimming team, requests all members of the team to see him as soon as possible for locker assignments at the University of Chicago, where the team practices. There are only fourteen lockers available for use by Armour men, so anyone who expects to be on the team and get a locker should see him at once.

## 56 Answer Krafft's Basketball Clarion

(Continued from page 1)

through the hoop, it was very apparent that they needed some instruction on the fundamentals of shooting. Krafft called a halt in the workout and warned against "palming" the ball, together with the necessity of starting the shot about shoulder high. Work resumed in lively fashion, and considerable improvement was noted immediately. The men were arching better and their general appearance on the floor, as a whole, was much improved.

### Practice On Pass and Pivot

Play was again halted and a short talk given on the pass. Fifteen men were lined up on each side and passing was begun in earnest. In this part of the game, Krafft cautioned the men to follow thru, and with the necessity of making their shots about waist high to the receiver. Mr. Kuehn assisted in giving instruction on the pivot. Several of the candidates evidently had never been correctly informed on the subject and thus demonstrated the need for that part of

the game. The awkwardness of the pivot wore off after a few attempts, and soon it was just a matter of common occurrence with the men who a few minutes before, had put up such a poor display.

### Krafft Talks Fundamentals

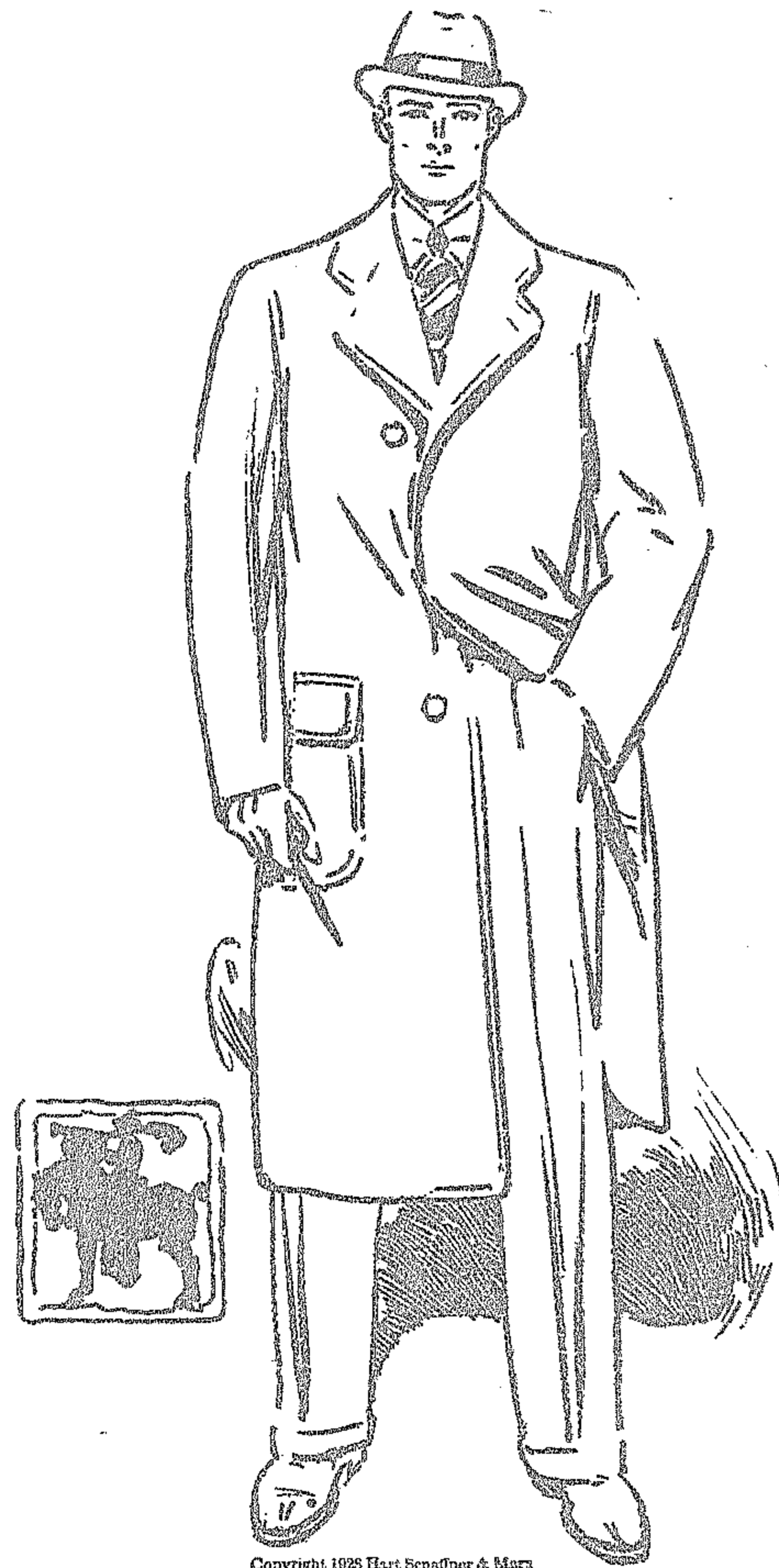
When a final halt was called, the men lined up for a little talk on the rudiments of the game and physical condition. Considerable attention was devoted to the condition of the play-

er's feet and the value of wearing good cushioned shoes and wool socks. This, according to the coach, could not be over-estimated. To make his remarks more weighty in this connection he added, that "a basketball player was no better than his 'dogs'." Reference to physical condition also came in for a little airing. Such things as pastry and cigarettes were definitely put on the "Don't do this" list, and the necessity of getting

proper rest was stressed to the fullest extent. The announcement that dates with the fairer sex were not to be taken from now on, did not seem to take so well with the boys, but if such is the rule, it stands.

The session closed about 6:45 p.m. Practice will be held at the home gym on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays for the next two weeks; after that workouts will be held at the Armory, 35th and Giles.

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